

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE	Kansas
COUNTY:	Marion
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME			
COMMON:			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
Burns Union School			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Southwest corner, Main and Ohio			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
Burns		No. 4, Garner Shriver	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Kansas	66840	Marion	115

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME:			
Burns Community Historical Society, Inc.			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Burns		Kansas	66840

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
Register of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Marion County Courthouse			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE	
Marion	Kansas	66861	20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
Historic Sites Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY:	1971	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
Kansas State Historical Society			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
120 West Tenth Street			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Topeka	Kansas	66612	20

STATE:	Kansas
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Burns Union School Building is a two-story Renaissance style structure with a full basement and an attic. The Renaissance traits in the building are subdued but evident. The building is L-shaped with the main entrance in an appendage at the inside corner of the "L." The building rests on a foundation of rough-cut limestone which extends about six feet above ground level and ends at the sill line of the first floor windows. The stone is coursed in horizontal layers and gives a massive base to the building. The walls above the foundation are constructed of red face brick laid in running bond. The wood shingled roof is gabled on one side of the "L" and hipped on the other. A broad wooden cornice which is devoid of any ornamentation separates the roof from the wall below.

Windows on the first and second floors are grouped in two's and three's and are simple rectangles with shallow curved arches for the heads. The wood sash windows are double hung with one light per sash. Window sills are cut stone and the window heads are shallow brick arches. Three dormers appear in the attic, each with a grouping of three windows and roofs that are hipped and shingled. A double window occurs in the east gable end. The basement windows are small openings in the rough stone foundation and have stone sills and lintels. The main entrance is accented by a large massive stone arch in which a transom window is located. The entrance door is double with a half glass in each.

Most of the changes to the building's exterior have occurred at the inside of the "L" near the entrance. To the north of the entrance a circular tower is situated. Formerly three stories high with a conical roof, it is now terminated by a flat roof at the roof line of the main part of the building. The entry way on the other hand, according to old photos, was originally only one and a half stories in height, but it has been extended to the main roof line. Also, two window openings on the east side have been bricked up.

The building is a typical example of the rural Kansas school building prevalent at the turn of the century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian; ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1904-1905

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Burns Union School in extreme southeast Marion county was the first consolidated grade and high school in Kansas. Shortly after the turn of the century, several school boards in the Burns vicinity decided it had become necessary to consolidate their schools. The area's sparse population was causing tax problems, and thus inadequate facilities; so in April, 1904, four districts in Marion, Butler and Chase counties voted to consolidate. On June 8 an election was held to select a school board for the new Union School of Burns, District 156-65. At an election held July 8 voters approved bonds totaling \$8,000 for a new building and on September 10 another election determined the exact site for the school.

Classes began September 6, 1904, in the old Burns grade school and the former post office building. Students were transported from a 43 square mile area to Burns via three special-order "buses" made by an El Dorado wagon maker, F. J. Newacheck. This is reportedly the first use of school "buses" in Kansas. On December 2, 1904, bids were received for the new school and local contractors, J. J. Clayton and S. Bell, were awarded the building contract with their low bid of \$7,200. C. W. Squires of Emporia was the architect and F. L. Giddings, one of the school board directors, was to supervise the work.

Although most citizens agreed on the consolidation proposal, some were dissatisfied with the site chosen; therefore an injunction was secured December 21, 1904, to prevent further work on the building until all previous actions were proven legal. Rev. George W. Durham, who had worked for the school consolidation, went to the state legislature in Topeka and was able to get a bill passed which legalized all the work of the school board. The building was completed in time for the opening of school in the fall of 1905. The total cost of the structure with its furnishings was \$9,000. Dedication ceremonies December 16, 1905, featured Gov. E. W. Hoch as the guest speaker.

The Burns Union School served as the only district school house until 1921 when a new high school building was completed. The original building was still used for classes until a further unification of school districts in 1965 terminated its use. In 1965 the Burns Community Historical Society, Inc., was organized and received title to the old school for use as a museum and other educational purposes.

The school has significance to the development of the public education system in Kansas since it housed the first consolidated grade and high school in the state.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kansas	
COUNTY	
Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

no. 9

Sidlinger, Bill, "Horse-Drawn Buses," Hutchinson News, November 16, 1969.
Sixteenth Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction
of Kansas (Topeka, Kan., State Printing Office, 1908), pp. 89-137.
Van Meter, Sondra, Marion County, Kansas, Past and Present (Hillsboro, Kan.,
M. B. Publishing House, 1972), pp. 129, 130.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bruner, Hazel, C., Days to Remember (North Newton, Kan., Mennonite Press, 1970), pp. 80, 83, 84.
 Burns Citizen, December 8, 1904; February 16, September 21, December 14, 1905.
 Kingman, Marguerite, "When Kansas School Bus Was a Covered Wagon," Kansas City Times, October 10, 1962.
 Lyons, Margaret, "Burns, Kan., School First to Consolidate," Wichita Eagle Magazine, September 11, 1955.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		38 05 20	96 53 15	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1-2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Richard D. Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION

Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

12/4/74

STREET AND NUMBER:

120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

CODE

20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Nyle H. Miller

Title

Executive Director, Kansas
State Historical Society

Date

December 6, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

KANSAS

BURNS QUADRANGLE
KANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(WONSEVU)

NCE) R. 4 E. R. 5 E.

55'

HERINGTON 38 MI.
FLORENCE 8.5 MI.

2 460 000 FEET

96°52'30"

38°07'30"



530 000
FEET

T. 22 S

AF 71 MI.
2400 20 MI.

38°05'20"